

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A flavored beverage product which comprises:

- a. a water-insoluble component having particles with a mean particle size diameter of from about 0.1 to about 3.0 microns which comprises:
 - (1) from about 0.2 to about 40% of a microparticulate component;
 - (2) from about 0.0 to about 40% of a fat/oil component;
 - (3) from about 0.0 to about 3.0% of an emulsifier;
 - (4) from about 0 to about 5% of a microcrystalline cellulose; and
- b. a water-soluble component which comprises:
 - (1) from about 0.075 to about 40% of a soluble beverage component;
 - (2) from about 0.05 to about 30% of a thickener;
 - (3) from about 0 to about 4% buffers;
 - (4) from about 0 to about 60% foam stabilizer;
 - (5) from about 0 to about 5% acid;
 - (6) from about 0 to about 5% carbonate/bicarbonate;
 - (7) from about 0 to about 50% sweetener;
 - (8) from about 0 to about 20% milk solids;
 - (9) from about 0 to about 3% processing aids;
 - (10) from about 0.1 to about 5% of a vitamin/mineral mix; and
- c. from about 0 to about 10% of a flavorant; and
- d. from about 0 to about 95% water; and

wherein the ratio of the water-insoluble to water-soluble components in said beverage product is about 0.300 or greater.

2. A ready-to-drink flavored beverage which comprises:

- a. a water-insoluble component having particles with a mean particle size diameter of from about 0.1 to about 3.0 microns which comprises:
 - (1) from about 0.2 to about 5.0% of a microparticulate component;
 - (2) from about 0 to about 0.70% of microcrystalline cellulose;
 - (3) from about 0.0 to about 5.0% of a fat component;
 - (4) from about 0.0 to about 0.2% of an emulsifier; and
- b. a water-soluble component which comprises:
 - (1) from about 0.075 to about 5.0% of a soluble beverage component;
 - (2) from about 0 to about 3.0% of a thickener;

- (3) from about 0.1 to about 5% of a vitamin/mineral mix;
- (4) optionally from about 0 to about 50% of a sweetener;
- (5) optionally up to about 3.0% milk solids; and

- c. from about 80 to about 95% water; and

wherein at least one of the water-soluble and water-insoluble components includes an effective amount of a flavorant; and wherein the ratio of water-soluble to water-insoluble components is about 3.3 or less.

3. A ready-to-drink flavored beverage which comprises:

- a. a water-insoluble component having particles with a mean particle size diameter of from about 0.1 to about 3.0 microns which comprises:
 - (1) from about 0.2 to about 5.0% of a microparticulate component;
 - (2) from about 0 to about 0.70% of microcrystalline cellulose;
 - (3) from about 0.2 to about 5.0% of a fat component;
 - (4) from about 0.004 to about 0.2% of an emulsifier; and
- b. a water-soluble component which comprises:
 - (1) from about 0.075 to about 5.0% of a soluble beverage component;
 - (2) from about 0 to about 3.0% of a thickener;
 - (3) from about 0.1 to about 5% of a vitamin/mineral mix;
 - (4) optionally from about 0 to about 50% of a sweetener;
 - (5) optionally up to about 3.0% milk solids; and

- c. from about 80 to about 95% water; and

wherein at least one of the water-insoluble and water-soluble components includes an effective amount of a flavorant; and wherein the ratio of water-insoluble to water-soluble components is at least 0.300 or greater.

4. A ready-to-drink beverage according to claim 2 wherein the ratio of water-soluble to water-insoluble components is from about 1.5 to about 2.5.

5. A ready-to-drink beverage according to Claim 3 wherein the ratio of water-insoluble to water-soluble components is from about 0.400 to about 0.667.

6. A ready-to-drink flavored beverage which comprises:

- a. a water-insoluble component having particles with a mean particle size diameter of from about 0.1 to about 3.0 microns which comprises:
 - (1) from about 0.2 to about 5.0% of a microparticulate component;
 - (2) from about 0 to about 0.70% of microcrystalline cellulose;
 - (3) from about 0.0 to about 5.0% of a fat component;
 - (4) from about 0.0 to about 0.2% of an emulsifier; and
- b. a water-soluble component which comprises:
 - (1) from about 0.075 to about 5.0% of a soluble beverage component;
 - (2) from about 0 to about 3.0% of a thickener;
 - (3) from about 0.1 to about 5% of a vitamin/mineral mix;
 - (4) optionally from about 0 to about 50% of a sweetener;
 - (5) optionally up to about 2.0% milk solids; and
- c. from about 80 to about 95% water; and

wherein at least one of the water-soluble and water-insoluble components includes an effective amount of a flavorant; and wherein the insoluble component per unit volume of the product is at least about 0.019 g/cc.

7. A ready-to-drink beverage according to claim 6 wherein the insoluble component per unit volume of the product is at least 0.022 g/cc.

8. An instant flavored beverage product which comprises:

- a. a water-insoluble component having particles with a mean particle size diameter of from about 0.1 to about 3.0 microns which comprises:
 - (1) from about 3 to about 40% of a microparticulate component;
 - (2) from about 0 to about 5% of microcrystalline cellulose;
 - (3) from about 0 to about 40%, of a fat/oil component; and
 - (4) from about 0 to about 3% emulsifier; and
- b. a water-soluble component which comprises:
 - (1) from about 1 to about 40% of a soluble beverage component;
 - (2) from about 0.05 to about 25% of a thickener;
 - (3) from about 0.1 to about 5% of a vitamin/mineral mix;
 - (4) optionally from about 1 to about 20% of a foaming creamer;
 - (5) optionally from about 0.1 to about 20% of a proteinaceous foam stabilizer;
 - (6) optionally from about 0.1 to about 5% of the edible acid;
 - (7) optionally from about 0.1 to about 5% of the carbonate/bicarbonate salt;

- (8) optionally from about 0 to about 50% of a sweetener; and
- (9) optionally up to about 20% milk solids; and

wherein at least one of the water-soluble and water-insoluble components includes an effective amount of a flavorant; and the ratio of water-soluble to water-insoluble components is about 3.3 or less, and the ratio of water-insoluble components to water-soluble components is about 0.300 or greater.

9. An instant beverage according to claim 8 wherein the ratio of water-soluble to water-insoluble components is from about 1.5 to about 2.0, and the ratio of water-insoluble to water-soluble components is about 0.400 to about 0.667.

10. An instant flavored beverage product which comprises:

- a. a water-insoluble component having particles with a mean particle size diameter of from about 0.1 to about 3.0 microns which comprises:
 - (1) from about 3 to about 40% of a microparticulate component;
 - (2) from about 0 to about 5% of microcrystalline cellulose;
 - (3) from about 0 to about 40%, of a fat/oil component; and
 - (4) from about 0 to about 3% emulsifier; and
- b. a water-soluble component which comprises:
 - (1) from about 1 to about 40% of a soluble beverage component;
 - (2) from about 0.05 to about 25% of a thickener;
 - (3) from about 0.1 to about 5% of a vitamin/mineral mix;
 - (4) optionally from about 1 to about 20% of a foaming creamer;
 - (5) optionally from about 0.1 to about 20 % of a proteinaceous foam stabilizer;
 - (6) optionally from about 0.1 to about 5% of the edible acid;
 - (7) optionally from about 0.1 to about 5% of the carbonate/bicarbonate salt;
 - (8) optionally from about 0 to about 50% of a sweetener; and
 - (9) optionally up to about 20% milk solids; and

wherein at least one of the water-soluble and water-insoluble components includes an effective amount of a flavorant; and the ratio of water-soluble to water-insoluble component per unit volume of the product is at least about 0.019 g/cc.

11. An instant beverage product according to claim 10 wherein the insoluble component per unit volume of the product is at least about 0.022 g/cc.

12. The flavored beverage product of Claim 1 wherein said water-soluble component comprises from about 0.01% to about 50% of a sweetener.

13. The ready-to-drink beverage product of Claim 2 wherein said water-soluble component comprises from about 0.01% to about 25% of a sweetener.

14. The ready-to-drink beverage product of Claim 3 wherein said water-soluble component comprises from about 0.01% to about 25% of a sweetener.

15. The ready-to-drink beverage product of Claim 6 wherein said water-soluble component comprises from about 0.01% to about 25% of a sweetener.

16. The instant beverage product of Claim 8 wherein said water-soluble component comprises from about 0.01% to about 25% of a sweetener.

17. The instant beverage product of Claim 10 wherein said water-soluble component comprises from about 0.01% to about 25% of a sweetener.

18. The flavored beverage product of Claim 1 wherein said water-soluble beverage component comprises from about .01% to about 5% of a vitamin and mineral composition selected from the group consisting of Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B9, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Vitamin K, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Iodine, Zinc, and mixtures thereof.

19. The ready-to-drink beverage product of Claim 2 wherein said water-soluble beverage component comprises from about .01% to about 5% of a vitamin and mineral composition selected from the group consisting of Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B9,

Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Vitamin K, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Iodine, Zinc, and mixtures thereof.

20. The ready-to-drink beverage product of Claim 3 wherein said water-soluble beverage component comprises from about .01% to about 5% of a vitamin and mineral composition selected from the group consisting of Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B9, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Vitamin K, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Iodine, Zinc, and mixtures thereof.

21. The ready-to-drink beverage product of Claim 6 wherein said water-soluble beverage component comprises from about .01% to about 5% of a vitamin and mineral composition selected from the group consisting of Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B9, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Vitamin K, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Iodine, Zinc, and mixtures thereof.

22. The ready-to-drink beverage product of Claim 8 wherein said water-soluble beverage component comprises from about .01% to about 5% of a vitamin and mineral composition selected from the group consisting of Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B9, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Vitamin K, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Iodine, Zinc, and mixtures thereof.

23. The instant beverage product of Claim 10 wherein said water-soluble beverage component comprises from about .01% to about 5% of a vitamin and mineral composition selected from the group consisting of Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Vitamin B9, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Vitamin K, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Iodine, Zinc, and mixtures thereof.